

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 00261 090947Z

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 NSF-02 OES-06 /028 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2359

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AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

UNCLAS SOFIA 0261

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, SCUL, PFOR, BU

SUBJECT: US-GOB EXCHANGES AGREEMENT AND PROGRAM

REF: A. RICHMOND-KARCH O/L, JAN. 24, B. STATE 016521, C. SOFIA

0121, D. SOFIA 2636

1. ON FEBRUARY 8 DCM AND P AND C OFFICER MET WITH CHAVDAR DAMYANOV, CHIEF OF MFA CULTURAL COOPERATION DEPARTMENT, TO DISCUSS PROGRESS OF US-GOB EXCHANGE AGREEMENT AND PROGRAM DOCUMENT. DCM SAID THAT WITH EXCEPTION OF STIPEND, NOTED BELOW, PROGRAM DOCUMENT AS NEGOTIATED DEC 11 (REF D) IS ACCEPTABLE TO USG. BOTH SIDES AGREED SIGNING OF AGREEMENT AND PROGRAM DOCUMENT TAKE PLACE IN SOFIA DURING MARCH, MONTH DAMYANOV CITED AS EARLIEST PRACTICAL SINCE PROGRAM DOCUMENT STILL NEEDS A FEW CLEARANCES ON BULGARIAN SIDE. NO DIFFICULTIES ARE FORESEEN.

2. STIPEND. PER REF B, DCM QUESTIONED ADEQUACY OF 10 LEVA STIPEND, PROVIDED IN DRAFT PROGRAM DOCUMENT (ART V, PARA 2), AND SUGGESTED 20 LEVA FOR SOFIA, PERHAPS SLIGHTLY LESS FOR OTHER CITIES. DAMYANOV VIEWED THIS AS A VALID QUESTION AND WILL RECONSIDER;
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HE SUGGESTED BOTH SIDES PROCEED ON ASSUMPTION THIS QUESTION WILL BE RESOLVED SATISFACTORILY.

3. SUMMER LECTURER. REF ART I, PARA 5 OF DRAFT PROGRAM DOCUMENT, NEXT SUMMER COURSE IN BULGARIA FOR BULGARIAN TEACHERS OF ENGLISH WILL BE IN 1978.

4. SCHOLARSHIPS IN ART AND CULTURE. PER REF A, DCM INQUIRED IF GOB HAS IDENTIFIED TWO BULGARIAN NOMINEES FOR SCHOLARSHIPS IN FIELDS OF ART AND CULTURE (ART I, PARA 6). APPARENTLY NO CONSIDERATION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THIS BUT DAMYANOV UNDERSTOOD NEED FOR TIMELY INFORMATION CITED REF A AND WILL PURSUE THIS WITH COMMITTEE ON ART AND CULTURE.

5. RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP. IN VIEW OF LEAD TIME NEEDED TO COMPLETE ARRANGEMENTS FOR RESEARCH SCHOLAR (ART I, PARA 3), BOTH SIDES AGREED ON NEED TO IDENTIFY CANDIDATE SOON.

6. NSF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING. NOTHING HAS BEEN HEARD SINCE MESSRS HULL AND RONKIN OF NSF PRESENTED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) TO COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNICAL PROGRESS, AND HIGHER EDUCATION (CSTPHE) ON DECEMBER 2. DCM ASKED DAMYANOV TO CONTACT CSTPHE FOR INFORMATION ON PROGRESS. DAMYANOV REFLECTED CONTINUING GOB INTEREST WHO WOULD ACT AS OFFICIAL HOST FOR NACHO PAPAZOV WHEN LATTER VISITS US TO SIGN MOU. DCM SAID PRESIDENT HAS NOT APPOINTED A SCIENCE ADVISER AS YET. HERZ

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